Mr. J. Mahomed Imam.—

Are not the Government aware that there are not enough midwives in rural areas and that there is need to provide one at least for each hobli?

First Member of Council.—

It is desirable to have even one for each village.

Mr. K. Venkatasamiah.—

Is not the number of deaths abnormal as shown by the figures furnished in the answers?

First Member of Council.—

There is no absolute standard in that respect.

MRS. KAMALAMMA H. DASAPPA and SRIMATI D. SAKAMMA (Special Interest).—

Q.—54. Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) How many travelling libraries are there in the State now?

(*b*) How many had been opened?

(*c*) Did any such library not work well, and if so, why?

(*d*) Is it not desirable to open such libraries in each taluk?

CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.—

A.—54. (*a*) None at present.

(*b*) Each taluk had a travelling library prior to the year 1921, when the scheme of travelling libraries was ordered to be held in abeyance.

(*c*) The reports on the working of the scheme, received from the Deputy Commissioners, showed that the scheme was not working satisfactorily.

(*d*) Yes, but it is a question of funds.

Supplementary Questions and Answers.

Srimati D. Sakamma.—

May I know how much money had been spent by Government for the purchase of books in connection with the travelling libraries?

First Member of Council.—

I cannot give the figure readily, but I believe we had spent some few thousand rupees in all. We had provided about a hundred rupees for each taluk.

Srimati D. Sakamma.—

What has happened to all the books now?

First Member of Council.—

They were all in the Taluk Offices for some time, but subsequently some of them were given to certain schools.

Director of Public Instruction.—

And some others are said to be in the charge of Village Panchayets.

Srimati D. Sakamma.—

Is it not desirable to revive travelling libraries, equip them properly and make them serve the public as far as possible?

First Member of Council.—

That is true, but let us do it when we have a little more money.

Capt. Y. V. Ayya.—

Why were the travelling libraries abolished?

First Member of Council.—

On account of financial stringency.

Capt. Y. V. Ayya.—

Were they meant for the benefit of the cities or the rural areas? And what kind of books were they?

First Member of Council.—

They were all meant for the benefit of the villages, and the books were all Kannada ones.

Mr. D. S. Mallappa.—

Was good use being made of the books when the travelling libraries were working?

First Member of Council.—

Yes.

Mr. D. S. Mallappa.—

Are all the books intact now or could any of them have been lost?

First Member of Council.—

I do not think any have been lost. Proper accounts have been maintained of them.

MR. M. RAMEGOWDA (Chintamani Taluk).—

Q.—17. Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) The total number of Village Panchayets in the State?

(*b*) The demand of these Panchayets for a year?

(*c*) The amount collected out of the demand till now and the balance to be recovered?

(*d*) The reason why this balance is outstanding?

(*e*) Whether the Patels and Shanbhogues of these villages have been taking interest or not to recover this balance along with land revenue *khists*?

(*f*) Whether they have taken action against such of the Patels and Shanbhogues as have not recovered the balance or to enquire into the reasons for their default?

(*g*) If they had enquired into the matter, would such a large balance be still outstanding?

(*h*) Is it not their function to improve the Village Panchayets?

(*i*) Whether they will take action to see that the Patels and Shanbhogues collect the Panchayet dues promptly in future?

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, GENERAL DEPARTMENT.—

A.—17. (*a*) 10,183 Panchayets and 12 hamlets.

(*b*) Rs. 30,19,112 for 1930-31 including arrears.

(*c*) Rs. 8,00,347—collections; Rs. 22,18,765—balance.

(*d*) Generally due to the fall of prices of agricultural produce and consequent tightness of money market and also to the inclusion of the heavy arrears of the old Panchayets.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Yes, and needful disciplinary action is taken by the officers concerned in cases of persistent neglect.

(*g*) The accumulation of arrears is due to reasons explained and is, to some extent, inevitable.